

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Registration of Record Group No. 228

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

"The Office of Coordinator of Information was established by a Presidential order of July 11, 1941, to collect, analyze, and correlate information bearing on national security and to make this information available to the President and to such Government departments and officials as the President might determine. It also carried out at the request of the President supplementary activities to facilitate the obtaining of important information. By a military order signed by the President on June 13, 1942, this office was designated as the Office of Strategic Services and was placed under the jurisdiction of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff. An Executive order of the same date transferred certain foreign information activities of the Coordinator of Information, with related records, to the Office of War Information (see Record Group 208), and an Executive order of March 9, 1943, defined these to include "all phases of the federal program of radio, press, publication, and related foreign propaganda activities involving the dissemination of information." The duties of the Office of Strategic Services were to collect and analyze such strategic information as might be required by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to plan and operate special services at their direction. The Office was terminated by an Executive order of September 20, 1945, effective October 1, 1945, and its records and some remaining functions were divided between the Department of State and the Department of War.

9. "Description of records in the National Archives:)

(Economic and military documents in a file known as "Order of Battle"; correspondence, memoranda, and other records of field offices; reports on political, economic, social, and military conditions in various countries; correspondence and other records of the Europe-Africa Division of the Research and Analysis Branch; topographic maps of Europe, with annotations, showing plans for commando and other operations; copies of maps showing terrain, transportation, and economic conditions in the Far East and the Soviet Union; property records of field installations; correspondence of the Washington and New York offices of the Historical Records Section, and a card file of information about persons whose photographs were obtained by the Office of Strategic Services for various reasons; and motion pictures entitled "December 7th," "Japanese Geography," "Japanese Resources," and "Japanese Behavior."

"Inclusive dates: 1941-45. Quantity: 1,355 cubic feet, including 14 cubic feet of motion-picture film. Accessions: 2158, 2159, 2239, 2313, 2397, 2405, 2577, 2843, 3236, 3380, and 3388. Custody: War Records Branch, Audio-Visual Records Branch, and Cartographic Records Branch. These records were received from the Department of State, the War Department, the Central Intelligence Group, and the Central Intelligence Agency. ..."

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Description of records not in the National Archives:

Other records of the Office of Strategic Services and its predecessor, the Coordinator of Information, have been retained by the Departments of State and the Army and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Related records:

Records of the Adjutant General's Office, RG 94, contain papers relating to the Office of Strategic Services. Records of the Central Intelligence Agency, RG 263, include extracts and transcripts of intercepted foreign broadcasts, 1947-48. Records of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, RG 243, include memoranda, reports, and interviews with captured military personnel. Within the World War II Collection of Seized Enemy Records, RG 242, are records relating to Adolph Hitler and other Axis leaders, German documentary and propaganda films, records of Italian Government agencies, and records of the Japanese War Ministry and the Japanese Naval Ministry.

Rev. 2, August 18, 1952.

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"The use of accessioned records in this record group is subject to the restrictions stated in "General Restrictions on the Use of Records in the National Archives" to the extent that any of these records are of the character described therein as restricted.

Restrictions that are specifically applicable to this record group are as follows:

- I. Records: "Order of Battle" file, 1942-45; reference information file, "L Series," 1942-45; records of the Europe-Africa Division, Research and Analysis Branch, 1941-45; and records of the Stockholm, Sweden, and New Delhi, India field offices, 1942-45.

Restrictions: Unless express permission is obtained from the Department of State, these records shall be kept confidential and shall be withheld from examination and consultation by officials, private individuals, or any other persons.

Imposed by: The Secretary of State.

- II. Records: Property records of the headquarters office and of field installations, 1942-45.

Restrictions: Use of these records is restricted to agencies of the Government and to persons authorized to use them by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States.

motion picture restrictions?

Personal Record Section?

Rev. 1; prepared by ~~WR~~; approved by CO, March 2, 1948.